

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the HARMFUL EFFECT OF MEDIA CONSOLIDATION.

PUBLIC AIRWAVES ARE BEING ABUSED by Sinclair Broadcasting, while it completely disregards its legal obligation to serve the public interest. When it comes to political matters, the public needs to have as much "faith" in the impartiality of media participation as it has for the legitimacy of the legal system. Sinclair Broadcasting's SHAMELESS abuse of its unrestrained access to the media market violates every principal of ETHICS and FAIRNESS that distinguished this country as a democratic model for over 200 years.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to STRENGTHEN MEDIA REGULATION AND OWNERSHIP RULES, not weaken them. If Sinclair Broadcasting used these PREDATORY TACTICS to discredit a competitor, it would be SANCTIONED for engaging in UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES. Surely such practices do not lose their IMMORAL and ILLEGITIMATE character because the target of the MEDIA SMEAR CAMPAIGN is someone running for political office instead of operating a competing business.

Sinclair Broadcasting's ABUSE OF MEDIA POWER shows why the license renewal process needs to be meaningful, rather than a prefatory return of a postcard.

Thank you.